

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS**

1. A tackifier,

comprising:

a. synthetic polymer selected from the group consisting  
5 essentially of polyacrylamide, polyacrylate, and a co-polymer of  
acrylate and acrylamide;

b. a natural organic material associated with said  
synthetic polymer; and

c. a cross-linking agent for cross-linking said synthetic  
10 polymer and said associated natural organic material.

2. The tackifier of claim 1 which additionally  
comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable  
composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural  
organic material and said cross-linking agent.

15 3. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said synthetic  
polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight; said  
natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is  
present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight; and said cross-  
linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

20 4. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said synthetic  
polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight; said  
natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is  
present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight; and said cross-  
linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

5. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight; and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

6. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

7. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting essentially of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, magnesium sulfate, molybdenum sulfate, and sodium molybdate.

8. The tackifier of claim 1 which additionally consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.

9. The tackifier of claim 1 which additionally consists essentially of a fiber to form a slurry.

10. The slurry of claim 9 which additionally comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of

said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material, and said cross-linking agent.

11. The slurry of claim 9 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount  
5 from 10% to 80% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight; and said cross-linking agent being present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

12. The slurry of claim 9 in which said tackifier  
10 portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight; and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

13. The slurry of claim 9 in which said tackifier  
15 portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight; and said cross-linking agent being  
20 present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

14. The tackifier of claim 9 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin,

plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

15. The tackifier of claim 9 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting essentially  
5 of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, and magnesium sulfate.

16. The tackifier of claim 9 which additionally  
consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging  
10 between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.